(a) what is the extent and level of Indian Navy's cooperation with other countries;

(b) the countries with which the Indian Navy held joint exercises during the last year;

(c) what is the benefit which accrued to our Navy by the joint exercises; and

(d) what is being done to encourage joint cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) During the year 1994, Indian Navy held Joint Naval exercises with Indonesia, Russia, Singapore and Malaysia. The Present extent and level of Indian Navy's cooperation with the Navies of other countries is considered adequate. Joint exercises promote confidence building, provide exposure to the latest technologies and facilitate exchange of views on professional matters. Joint cooperation with friendly countries is an on-going process and the position is reviewed from time to time.

New Management Strategy in Indian Navy

6347. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the New Management Strategy of the Indian Navy;

(b) what is new in the NMS;

(c) when the NMS was introduced in the Indian Navy;

(d) what perceptible benefits did the NMS give over the earlier pattern; and

(e) by when the success or failure of NMS will be evaluated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The thrust of the New Management Strategy (NMS) introduced in the Indian Navy provides for the Service Chief exercising enhanced financial powers in respect of revenue expenditure in consultation with a Financial Officer within the laid down guidelines. Phase-I of the NMS delegating new financial powers to the dockyards alongwith placement of Financial Advisor was introduced on 1.12.93. In Phase-II approved in November, 1994 the NMS has been extended to cover procurement for the Logistics branch.

(d) The introduction of NMS resulted in functional efficiency at various levels.

(e) It has been decided to introduce NMS in phases on an experimental basis. The success or failure of NMS can be evaluated after its full implementation when the concept stabilises and effectiveness reviewed.

Upgradation of MIG-21 BIS aircraft

6348. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the upgradation of the MIG-21 BIS aircraft is being done;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) to what extent the Russian agencies are involved in the upgradation project;

(d) by when the upgraded MIG-21 BIS aircrafts will be operationally available; and

(e) what are the total funds required for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (e) The Government have decided to upgrade MIG-21 BIS aircraft in association with Russian agencies. A letter of intent has been issued in March 1994 nominating Mikoyan Design Bureau as the prime contractors for design, development and light test. The upgraded version is to be productionised at HAL. Various systems/sub-systems proposed to be included in the upgraded package have been indentified and the final system